



CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE

ADOPT-A-STREET PROGRAM



Building Community One Street at a Time

City of Fort Lauderdale Adopt-A-Street Program

Overview

Litter is an eyesore and pollutes local waterways. Neighbors, local businesses, church groups, homeowners associations, and student groups can help build civic pride, protect our environment, and create a cleaner Fort Lauderdale to live, work, and play in by participating in the City of Fort Lauderdale's Adopt-A-Street program.

The City of Fort Lauderdale developed the Adopt-A-Street program in response to its neighbors' desire to keep the streets within their neighborhoods litter free and beautiful. This program is a cleanup campaign that offers a hands-on approach to beautification through litter removal and street maintenance. By participating in the program, civic-minded neighbors and organizations can take a more active role in their city to help create inviting green spaces, prevent stormwater pollution, preserve the environment, and build a more attractive Fort Lauderdale. The details of the program are as follows:

- ❖ A community member/group must adopt a minimum of two miles of a public Fort Lauderdale street and agree to remove litter at least four times per calendar year for a minimum of a two-year period.
- ❖ Participants must remove litter from the top of any storm drains located along the adopted street. Participants who see litter or hazardous materials inside any storm drains, or notice clogged storm drains should report them to the 24-hour Customer Service Center at (954) 828-8000.
- ❖ The City of Fort Lauderdale will provide the group with large bags for litter and recyclable materials, trash tongs, and necessary safety equipment for up to 10 people. Trash tongs must be returned to City Hall following the cleanup.
- ❖ The City of Fort Lauderdale will collect all bags for disposal following each cleanup event.
- ❖ The City of Fort Lauderdale will install one sign on the adopted street (possibly two if there is a sufficient amount of right-of-way) identifying the group. The City will also post a picture and a brief description of the group on its website.

To participate in the program, complete an Adopt-A-Street Application and return it to the **Neighbor Support Office at 100 N. Andrews Avenue, 5th Floor, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301**. Applications are available online at www.fortlauderdale.gov/neighborhoods or by contacting Neighbor Support at (954) 828-5213 or rhenderson@fortlauderdale.gov. Once the application is received and processed, Neighbor Support staff will contact the applicant to provide an overview of the program and schedule the Adopt-A-Street sign installation.

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Procedures and Group Responsibilities

- ❖ Groups interested adopting a two-mile segment of a City of Fort Lauderdale public street for litter removal should contact the Lauderdale Neighbor Support Office at (954) 828-5213 or email Ryan Henderson at rhenderson@fortlauderdale.gov.
- ❖ City of Fort Lauderdale staff will review streets proposed for adoption by the group to determine the safest location for the cleanup effort. Once a location is approved by both parties, the group should complete and submit an Adopt-A-Street application and Participant Agreement form to the City.
- ❖ The City will loan safety equipment (e.g., orange vests and gloves, rakes, and trash-tongs) for up to 10 volunteers prior to each cleanup effort. The City will also provide large bags for litter and recyclable materials.
- ❖ The group agrees to remove litter along the adopted segment of the street and from any storm drains on the street at least four times per calendar year for a minimum of two years. The group will continue to be the sole adopter of the specified segment of the street after the two-year agreement, unless another group requests to adopt the street after the two-year period.
- ❖ The group is encouraged to separate recyclable materials from regular trash to help reduce landfill waste and enhance the City's sustainable initiatives.
- ❖ During the week prior to each cleanup effort, a representative of the group shall call Neighbor Support at (954) 828-5213 to schedule litter bag pickup and disposal.
- ❖ When a group does not remove litter along its adopted street for a period of six months, the City of Fort Lauderdale will recover the safety equipment loaned to the group and remove the Adopt-A-Street recognition signs. The vacated segment of the street will then be available for adoption by other interested parties.

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Safety Policy

Prior to the Day of Litter Removal

- ❖ The group will designate a representative to act as the Safety Supervisor. The Safety Supervisor's job is critical for the success of the cleanup effort, as he or she will supervise safety matters for the overall group. If necessary, the Safety Supervisor will be responsible for emergency communications and/or arranging transportation to the appropriate health care facility.
- ❖ The Safety Supervisor should visit the cleanup site to ensure there is not any construction occurring on the street. If construction is occurring, the cleanup effort should be rescheduled. Construction and cleanup efforts that occur simultaneously may lead to driver confusion and potential accidents.
- ❖ The group should have a first-aid kit on site during the effort. Safety kits are useful when dealing with minor cuts or scratches that may occur during litter removal.
- ❖ The removal of litter bags is critical in the cleanup effort. Contact Neighbor Support at (954) 828-5213 prior to the cleanup date to schedule a date for the removal of the litter bags.

Arriving to the Site

- ❖ Have transportation available. The Safety Supervisor is responsible for ensuring every member of the group has transportation.
- ❖ Carpooling to the cleanup site is encouraged. This will reduce the number of vehicles that need to be parked during the cleanup, and it reduces carbon emissions, travel costs, and traffic congestion. Using one vehicle to shuttle volunteers from a parking lot to the cleanup site is effective.
- ❖ Cleanup volunteers should not park their on the street. If possible, it is best to use a parking lot to park all vehicles.

Dress for Safety

- ❖ Cleanup volunteers should not wear clothing or use headphones that will restrict vision or hearing. Anything that distracts volunteers' attention from what they are doing may result in injury.
- ❖ Volunteers must wear a safety vest. Each volunteer should have an orange vest. The City of Fort Lauderdale will loan these to the organization prior to the day of each scheduled litter removal effort.
- ❖ Wear light-colored clothing.
- ❖ Wear leather closed-toe shoes or boots. Sneakers are not recommended, as they may be torn easily by nails or broken glass.
- ❖ Wear a hat, sunglasses, sunscreen, or a long sleeve shirt to protect skin from harmful sunrays.

The Day of Litter Removal

- ❖ Avoid any areas where construction is occurring. If there are construction barricades or pylons in the street, do not enter those areas until those items are removed and construction is complete.
- ❖ Alcoholic beverages or illegal drugs will not be tolerated during the cleanup effort.
- ❖ An adequate supply of drinking water should be made available for all volunteers participating in the cleanup.
- ❖ Cleanups may only occur during daylight hours and should not be conducted during peak travel times. The recommended time for litter removal is between the hours of 8 a.m. and noon.
- ❖ The Safety Supervisor should perform a safety briefing prior to each cleanup.
- ❖ Have a phone available. A backup phone is recommended.
- ❖ Know the route from the litter removal site to the nearest emergency center or hospital. This is important in case you cannot contact 911 for help.
- ❖ Cleanup volunteers should face oncoming traffic while working. This will enable them to detect erratic drivers. If a volunteer sees a driver that is driving carelessly, he or she should direct everyone off the street.

- ❖ Provide adult supervision for youth groups or young participants. Children under 12 years of age should not be allowed at the cleanup site, despite how mature they may seem. Teenagers must have adult supervision.
- ❖ Avoid overexertion. Make all attempts to keep the cleanup effort to a minimum of one and a half to two hours for both sides of the street.
- ❖ Be alert for snakes, rodents, and other wild animals.
- ❖ Avoid contact with hazardous substances. If a cleanup volunteer encounters any unidentifiable buckets, bottles, barrels, boxes, jugs, etc., he or she should not pick them up. Notify the Neighbor Support representative on the next business day to have the item(s) removed.
- ❖ Report any found weapons to the Broward Sheriff's Office (954) 786-4200. Remember; do not touch any weapons found.
- ❖ Do not remove litter on bridges or overpasses. Cleanup volunteers should avoid these high traffic areas.
- ❖ Do not remove litter from a median, which is a paved or landscaped area between opposing lanes of traffic. Cleanup areas start at the edge of the street and extend no more than 10 feet toward the property line.
- ❖ Do not enter the roadway or shoulder of the street to remove litter. If there is litter in the middle of the street, do not pick it up. Inform the Neighbor Support representative on the next business day. However, if the item poses a danger to traffic, please contact the Fort Lauderdale Police Department at (954) 828-5700 to report it.
- ❖ Volunteers are encouraged to separate recyclable materials from regular trash to help reduce landfill waste and enhance the City's sustainable initiatives.